



The Legislative Wrap-Up

Library and Information Services, Department of Legislative Services

Issue 11-2

January 17-21, 2011

(Click on Issue above for previous Wrap-Ups)

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

The 2011 session bill counts have reached 122 in the Senate and 91 in the House and may be expected to reach the 2,500 mark as upcoming deadlines approach:

- **Bill Request Guarantee Date (January 25)** requires legislators to request that bills be drafted in order to guarantee preparation for the bill introduction deadlines;
- **Senate Bill Introduction Date (February 4)** requires, under Senate Rule 32(b), that Senate bills introduced after this date be referred to the Senate Rules Committee. However, the Senate hopper remains open so that all bills should be given to the Secretary of the Senate's office by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 7; and
- **House Bill Introduction Date (February 11)** requires, under House Rule 32(b), that House bills introduced after this date be referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee. All bills must be given to the Chief Clerk of the House by 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 10.

GOVERNORIAL INAUGURATION

On Wednesday, January 19, in the chamber of the Senate of Maryland, Chief Judge Robert M. Bell of the Maryland Court of Appeals administered the gubernatorial oath of office to Martin O'Malley, who began his second term as Maryland's Governor. Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor of Maryland, was also sworn in for a second term by Chief Judge Bell. The Governor and Lt. Governor then made their way to the west portico of the State House where they repeated their oaths with Judge Bell before a welcoming crowd of Marylanders. Governor O'Malley then delivered his inaugural address. He stated:

...our State and nation are at a crossroads. As we turn into this new economy, there will be some states that lose and some states that win. Our mission in these next four years and beyond is to make our children winners in the new economy. And so our work continues: to create and save jobs

through innovation, and to improve public safety, public education and our quality of life. With tough choices and unity of purpose we move forward together."

INTRODUCTION OF BUDGET BILLS

As required by the Maryland Constitution, Governor O'Malley's Budget Bill ([SB 85/HB 70](#)) for fiscal 2012 was introduced on the 10th day of session, Friday, January 21. In years other than the first year of a term, the Budget Bill must be introduced on the third Wednesday in January, but in the first year of a term the Constitution permits the bill to be introduced no later than the 10th day of the session.

The Constitution requires that the budget be balanced and that the General Assembly pass the Budget Bill by the 83rd day, which is April 4 this year, or the Governor must proclaim an extended session if the Budget Bill does not pass by the 90th day. During the extended portion of the session the General Assembly may deal only with the Budget Bill and with the cost of the extended session. Only in 1992 did the General Assembly not pass the bill by the 90th day requiring an extended session.

The General Assembly may reduce the Governor's proposed amounts for the Executive Branch but may not increase them. In odd numbered years, i.e. 2011, the House of Delegates moves its Budget Bill to the floor first. Therefore, [HB 70](#) will be the measure that ultimately passes. In 2012, the Senate will handle the Budget Bill first.

On Friday, January 21, Governor O'Malley also submitted the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Bill of 2007 ([SB 86/HB 71](#)), which finances the majority of the State's capital programs.

Budget briefings by the Director, Office of Policy Analysis, Department of Legislative Services will begin next week in both the House Appropriations Committee and in the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. Other principal standing committees also will receive fiscal briefings from the Director in the coming weeks.

COMMITTEE BRIEFINGS

Committees have been very busy this week with briefings on a number of subjects aimed at preparing members for the complicated issues they will face this session. Among next week's numerous presentations will be briefings on alcoholic beverage laws and issues, Maryland's voting system, ethic laws, procurement law with a focus on the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program, and problems and concerns about the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

CRIMES, CORRECTIONS, AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Each law enforcement agency in the State is required to collect specified data on all traffic stops and to adopt a policy against race-based traffic stops under legislation ([SB 14](#)) that reinstitutes a previous law that expired in 2010. The bill, which had a Senate committee hearing this week, also reestablishes a reporting program for the collection and analysis of the traffic stop data.

TRANSPORTATION

Driver Licensing

[SB 2](#), introduced on January 14 and heard in committee on January 20, recognizes Medal of Honor recipients by eliminating the fees they must pay to renew a motor vehicle registration or a non-commercial driver's license.

Pedestrian Safety

[SB 12](#), also heard in committee on January 20, reconstitutes the Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force. The Task Force is required to study the minimum safe sound level to be required for new vehicles in order to enhance the safety of pedestrians, including those who are blind. The Task Force report is due June 30, 2013.

MINORITY LEADERSHIP

On Friday, January 21, the Senate Republican Caucus selected new minority leadership. Senator Nancy Jacobs is now the Minority Leader, and Senator E. J. Pipkin is the Minority Whip. Senator Allan Kittleman was the former Minority Leader, and Senator David Brinkley was the former Minority Whip.

STATE-OF-THE-STATE ADDRESS

Governor O'Malley is slated to address the General Assembly in joint session in the House chamber on Thursday, February 3, at noon.